What is claimed is:

1. A breast image obtaining method for use with a solid-state detector accommodated in a housing, said detector being capable of recording image information carried by radioactive rays as an electrostatic latent image when irradiated with said rays, and generating an electric current in proportion to said electrostatic latent image when scanned with reading light, said method comprising the steps of:

imaging a breast image of a subject by irradiating the radioactive rays passed through the breast on said solid-state detector; and

reading out said breast image by mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light, and generating said electric current,

wherein said imaging is performed after said detector is moved inside the housing to a place close to the chest wall of the subject, and said reading is performed after said detector is moved inside the housing to a place remote from the chest wall of the subject.

2. A breast image obtaining method for use with a stimulable phosphor panel accommodated in a housing, said panel being capable of storing image information carried by radioactive rays when irradiated with said rays, and generating stimulated luminescence in proportion to said image information when scanned with excitation light, said method comprising the steps of:

imaging a breast image of a subject by irradiating the radioactive rays passed through the breast on said stimulable phosphor panel; and

reading out said breast image by mechanically scanning said panel with said excitation light, and detecting stimulated luminescence generated by said scanning,

wherein said imaging is performed after said panel is moved inside the housing to a place close to the chest wall of the subject, and said reading is performed after said panel is moved inside the housing to a place remote from the chest wall of the subject.

3. A breast image obtaining apparatus comprising:

a solid-state detector capable of recording image information carried by radioactive rays as an electrostatic latent image when irradiated with said rays, and generating an electric current in proportion to said electrostatic latent image when scanned with reading light;

a reading light scanning means for mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light;

a housing for accommodating said detector, and reading light scanning means; and

a moving means for moving said detector inside the housing in the directions toward and away from the chest wall of a subject,

wherein said apparatus is configured to pick up a breast image by irradiating radioactive rays passed through the breast on said detector at a place close to the chest wall of a subject,

and read out said breast image by mechanically scanning said detector with said reading light scanning means, and generating said electric current at a place remote from the chest wall of the subject.

4. A breast image obtaining apparatus comprising:

a stimulable phosphor panel capable of storing image information carried by radioactive rays when irradiated with said rays, and generating stimulated luminescence in proportion to said image information when scanned with excitation light;

an excitation light scanning means for mechanically scanning said panel with said excitation light;

a sensor for detecting said stimulated luminescence;

a housing for accommodating said panel, excitation light scanning means, and sensor; and

a moving means for moving said panel inside the housing in the directions toward and away from the chest wall of a subject,

wherein said apparatus is configured to pick up a breast image by irradiating radioactive rays passed through the breast on said panel at a place close to the chest wall of the subject, and read out said breast image by mechanically scanning said panel with said excitation light scanning means, and detecting said stimulated luminescence generated by said scanning at a place remote from the chest wall of the subject.